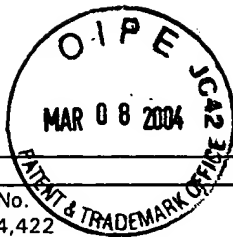


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TRANSMITTAL LETTER			Case No. 10593-4
Serial No. 09/814,422	Filing Date March 21, 2001	Examiner B. Pantuck	Group Art Unit 3731
Inventor(s) Emin Tuncay Ustuner			
Title of Invention AUTOMATIC SURGICAL SUTURING INSTRUMENT AND METHOD			

TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

Transmitted herewith is Second Response, Response Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.116, Expedited procedure - Examining Group 3731 (in response to the Office Action dated January 29, 2004) and return post card.

- ☐ Small entity status of this application under 37 CFR § 1.27 has been established by verified statement previously submitted.
- ☐ Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.
- ☐ Petition for a _____ month extension of time.
- ☒ No additional fee is required.
- ☐ The fee has been calculated as shown below:

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	Claims Remaining After Amendment		Highest No. Previously Paid For	Present Extra
Total		Minus		
Indep.		Minus		
First Presentation of Multiple Dep. Claim				

Small Entity		or	Other Than Small Entity	
Rate	Add'l Fee		Rate	Add'l Fee
x \$9 =			x \$18 =	
x 43 =			x \$86 =	
+ \$145 =			+ \$290 =	
Total add'l fee	\$		Total add'l fee	\$

- ☐ Please charge Deposit Account No. 23-1925 (BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE) in the amount of \$ _____. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.
- ☐ A check in the amount of \$ _____ to cover the filing fee is enclosed.
- ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional filing fees required under 37 CFR § 1.16 and any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR § 1.17 associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1925. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.
- ☒ I hereby petition under 37 CFR § 1.136(a) for any extension of time required to ensure that this paper is timely filed. Please charge any associated fees which have not otherwise been paid to Deposit Account No. 23-1925. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig A. Summerfield
 Craig A. Summerfield
 Registration No. 37,947
 Attorney for Applicant
 Customer No. 00757 - Brinks Hofer Gilson Lione

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE
 P.O. BOX 10395
 CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60610
 (312) 321-4200

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to:
 Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on March 3, 2004.

Date: March 3, 2004Signature: *Craig A. Summerfield*